

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An adjustable mattress comprising:
a first section and a second section, the first section and the second section moveable relative to each other and together forming at least a portion of a sleeping surface of the adjustable mattress; ~~[[and]]~~
a first mechanical drive unit within the adjustable mattress, the first mechanical drive unit connected to at least one of the first section and the second section and providing a mechanical force to move the first section relative to the second section; and
a flexible sheet disposed between the first mechanical drive unit and bottom surfaces of the first and second sections, said flexible sheet being continuous in a longitudinal direction of the mattress at least across one of the first and second sections.
2. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1, further comprising one or more additional sections, each additional section forming a portion of the sleeping surface of the adjustable mattress, and each additional section moveable relative to at least one of the first section, the second section, or another one of the one or more additional sections.
3. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 2, further comprising a second mechanical drive unit within the adjustable mattress and connected to a least one of the additional sections to provide mechanical force to move the at least one of the additional sections relative to at least one of the first section, the second section, or another one of the one or more additional sections.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently amended) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 further comprising a mattress cover enclosing the first section, the second section, ~~[[and]]~~ the first mechanical drive unit, and the flexible sheet.
6. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 further comprising one or more layers of padding beneath the sleeping surface.

7. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein the first section hinges relative to the second section.
8. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 further comprising a foundation, at least one of the first section or the second section remaining stationary relative to the foundation.
9. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein each of the first section and the second section includes a mattress core adapted to receive the first mechanical drive unit.
10. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 9 wherein the mattress core of at least one of the first section and the second section includes at least one of a foam core, a liquid core, an air core, a plurality of open spring coils, or a plurality of pocket spring coils.
11. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 further comprising a controller adapted to activate the first mechanical drive unit to move the first section relative to the second section.
12. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 11 wherein the controller is wireless.
13. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 11 wherein the controller is programmable to recall one or more positions of the first section and the second section.
14. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 11 wherein the controller provides digital adjustment of the first section relative to the second section.
15. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 14 wherein the digital adjustment permits entry of a number characterizing the position of the first section relative to the second section.
16. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 11 wherein the controller provides continuous adjustment of the first section relative to the second section.

17. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 16 wherein the continuous adjustment includes at least one of a slider, a knob, or a dial.
18. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein the first mechanical drive unit includes a DC motor.
19. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein the first mechanical drive unit includes a worm gear.
20. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein the first mechanical drive unit includes one or more arms coupled to a DC motor.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first section and the second section remains parallel with a ground surface.
24. (Currently amended) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein the first section is at least one of a head section of a mattress or a foot section of a mattress.
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Currently amended) An adjustable mattress comprising:
a first section and a second section, the first section and the second section moveable relative to each other and together forming at least a portion of a sleeping surface of the adjustable mattress; and

a mechanical means within the adjustable mattress for moving the first section relative to the second section; and

a flexible mid-sheet disposed between the mechanical means and the first and second sections, said flexible mid-sheet being continuous in a longitudinal direction of the mattress at least across one of the first and second sections.

28. (Currently amended) An articulated mattress having a flexible cover, comprising:
a base element having a head end forming a planar region parallel to the sleeping surface of said mattress;

a sleeping element comprising:
one or more mattress cores disposed on and above a flexible platform; and
articulation means fixedly attached to said base element, comprising
a screw drive means fixedly mounted to said base element; [[and]]

linkage means coupled to said screw drive, whereby actuation of said screw drive causes said linkage to bear on said flexible platform, thereby displacing said platform; and

a flexible sheet disposed between the one or more mattress cores and the flexible platform, said flexible sheet being continuous in a longitudinal direction of the one or more mattress cores at least across one of the mattress cores,

[[and]] wherein said base element, said sleeping element, [[and]] said articulation means, and said flexible sheet are located within said flexible cover.

29. (Original) The articulated mattress of claim 28, wherein said mattress overlaps a frame, said mattress further comprising one or more clamping means for attaching said mattress to said frame.

30. (Original) The articulated mattress of claim 28, wherein said articulation means further comprises a controller configured to effect said actuation.

31. (Original) The articulated mattress of claim 30 wherein said controller is a wireless controller.

Claims 32 - 49. (Canceled)

Add new claims 50- 59:

50. (New) The adjustable mattress of claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet comprises a first sheet member associated with the first section and a second sheet member associated with the second section, with the first sheet member being hingedly attached to the second sheet member.

51. (New) The adjustable mattress of claim 50, wherein the first sheet member is hingedly attached to the second sheet member by an articulated hinge.

52. (New) The adjustable mattress of claim 50, wherein the first sheet member is hingedly attached to the second sheet member by a pliable joint.

53. (New) The adjustable mattress of claim 2, wherein the flexible sheet comprises a first sheet member disposed between the first section and the first mechanical drive unit, and a second sheet member disposed between the second section and the second mechanical drive unit, with the first sheet member being hingedly attached to the second sheet member.

54. (New) The adjustable mattress of claim 53, wherein the first sheet member is hingedly attached to the second sheet member by an articulated hinge.

55. (New) The adjustable mattress of claim 53, wherein the first sheet member is hingedly attached to the second sheet member by a pliable joint.

56. (New) The adjustable mattress of claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet is made of a continuous piece of plywood.

57. (New) The adjustable mattress of claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet is made of a continuous piece of plastic.

58. (New) The adjustable mattress of claim 1, wherein the continuous flexible sheet is sized to match the sleeping surface.

59. (New) The adjustable mattress of claim 50, wherein the first sheet member is directly hingedly attached to the second sheet member by an articulated hinge or a pliable joint.